

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs ● (816) 426-4220 ● 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 ● Kansas City, MO 64106 www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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BONNER SPRINGS MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Bonner Springs, Kan., man was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

Arturo Caballero, also known as El Charro, 41, of Bonner Springs, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to 30 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Caballero** to pay a fine of \$25,000.

On April 18, 2002, **Caballero** was convicted by a federal jury of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine over a five-and-a-half-year period, between January 1, 1996 and July 6, 2001.

"Caballero managed a large and widespread group of drug traffickers," Graves said. "He obtained his methamphetamine from several sources and distributed a large quantity of methamphetamine in several areas of Missouri and Kansas."

Co-defendant **Carlos Bernal**, 39, of Kansas, pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge on June 12, 2002, and was sentenced to 12 years and 9 months in federal prison without parole on Nov. 14, 2002.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Customs Service, the Internal Revenue Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow